

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Claims 1-20 and 23-28 were pending and under consideration in the application, claims 21 and 22 having been previously cancelled.

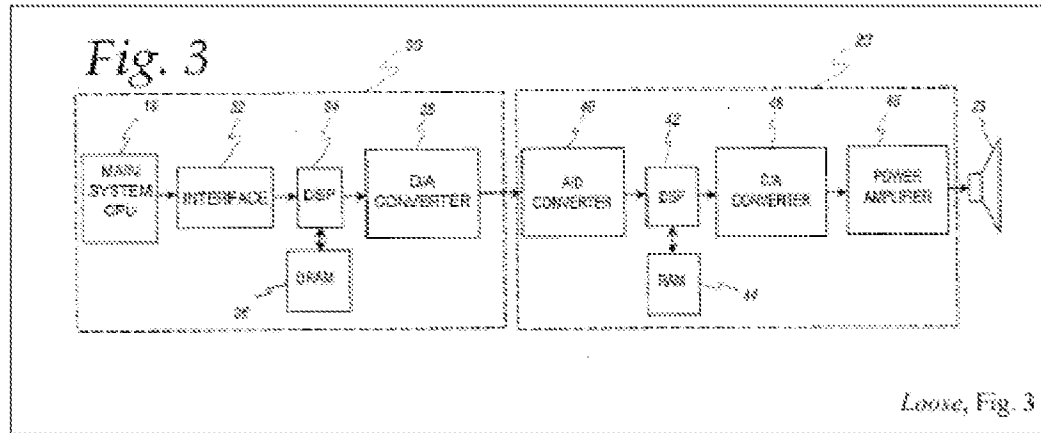
In the Final Office Action dated August 12, 2010, Claims 1-4, 9-13, 15-17, 19-20, 23, 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Loose, PG PUB 2004/0161115 (hereinafter, “*Loose*”) and Neal et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,237,057 (hereinafter, “*Neal*”).

Claims 5-8, 14, 18 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Loose* and *Neal* as applied to the claims above, and in further view of Prezby, PG PUB 2003/0100359 (hereinafter “*Prezby*”)

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

1. Claims 1-4, 9-13, 15-17, 19-20, 23, 27-28 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over *Loose* and *Neal*.

Loose relates to a gaming machine having a control architecture for producing an enhanced audio experience for players of the gaming machine. Referring now to Fig. 3 of Loose, reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner, Loose discloses the gaming machine has a first control module 30 that includes a main processor 16. The main processor 16 randomly selects one of a plurality of outcomes of the gaming machine in response to a wager amount and sends audio information that controls audio output from the gaming machine. An audio control module 23 is separate and distinct from the first control module 30, and includes an audio processor 42 that receives the audio information from the main processor 16. The audio control module 23 is coupled to an audio speaker system 25 for broadcasting the audio output corresponding to the audio information. Loose, Abstract.



Loose fails to teach or suggest a programmable logic device (PLD) interposed between a digital signal processor (DSP) and a master gaming controller (MGC), as recited in independent claim 1. Neither does Loose teach or suggest a programmable logic device (PLD) interposed between a digital signal processor (DSP) and a central processing unit (CPU), as recited in each of independent claims 11 and 17.

The Office Action asserted that "interface" 32 of Loose, Fig. 3, corresponds to applicants' PLD. Whether or not the foregoing assertion results from a reasonable construction of Applicants' claims, Loose fails to suggest a programmable logic device and master gaming controller communicatively coupled by a control line, an address line, and a data line, where the control line and the address line are configured such that information can only be sent from the master gaming controller to the programmable logic device, and the data line is configured such that data bits may be sent in both directions, as presently recited in claim 1.

On the contrary, Loose, if anything, teaches away from the foregoing feature, by expressly providing that communication between "main system CPU" (element 16) and "interface" (element 32) flows only from element 16 to element 32.

Similarly, Loose fails to suggest a programmable logic device and central processing unit communicatively coupled by a control line, an address line, and a data line, where the control line and the address line are configured such that information can only be sent from the master gaming controller to the programmable logic device, and the data line is configured such that data bits may be sent in both directions, as presently recited in claim 11 and 17.

The Office Action asserted that *Loose* discloses:

“a programmable logic device interposed between the master gaming controller (fig 3) and the digital sound system (para 28. In this case, the CPU communicates with the digital sound system through elem 32. It can be implied that the interface may be any suitable interface such as a programmable logic device can receive instructions. It is also well known that interfaces can comprise of programmable logic devices.); and wherein said programmable logic device converts instructions from said master gaming controller to instructions that can be executed by said digital signal processor (para 37).” Office Action, page 3.

The foregoing assertion is not supported by the actual content of the reference, at least because nothing in Loose suggests that Loose’s element 32 (denominated simply as an “Interface”) is a PLD; moreover, paragraph 0037 of Loose cited above has nothing to do either with a PLD or with Loose’s Interface 32.

Neal fails to cure the deficiencies noted above. *Neal* relates to “hot plugging” of adapter cards in computer systems. *Neal* fails to disclose the previously claimed feature (acknowledged by the Office Action to be absent in Loose) of “a programmable logic device master gaming controller communicatively coupled by a control line, an address line, and a data line, said control line and said address line configured such that information can only be sent from the master gaming controller to the programmable logic device, and said data line configured such that data bits may be sent in both directions”.

The Office Action asserted that Neil “teaches that several different bus designs have been developed for interconnecting the various computer components and optional devices, such as additional memory (RAM), sound cards, telephone modems, etc. One improvement was by adding more data and address lines, new interrupt lines, and direct memory-access (DMA) control lines, to create the well-known AT bus, which is also referred to as the Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) bus. (Col 1, lines 14-50)” Office Action, page 3. Whether or not the assertion is true, such disclosure fails to suggest the control line and address line configured such that information can only be sent from the master gaming controller to the programmable logic device, and the data line configured such that data bits may be sent in both directions.

Because the above noted features are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art, the Office Action fails to establish that the invention as a whole would have been obvious in light

thereof. See MPEP 2143.03. "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art."

As a result, claims 1, 11, and 17, and claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the combination of *Loose* and *Neil*.

2. Claims 5-8, 14, 18 and 24-26 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over *Loose* and *Neal* and in further view of *Prezby*.

Claims 5-8, 14, 18 and 24-26 each depend from an independent claim that is patentable for the reasons given in part B.1. above. The Office Action asserted that *Prezby* discloses a slot game where audio can be tailored to a player using the player's recorded voice as means of generating an enhanced audio output which will attract frequent play. Whether or not this is true, such disclosure fails to cure the deficiencies noted above.

As a result, claims 5-8, 14, 18, and 24-26 are patentable over the combination of *Loose*, *Neal*, and *Prezby*.

CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorneys at (510) 663-1100.

Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are required to facilitate the filing of this Amendment. However, if it is determined that such fees are due, please charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P095).

Respectfully submitted,
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